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ABSTRACT

This report compares the characteristics of Santa Ana College (SAC) students enrolled in the fall 1966 semester with those of SAC students enrolled in fall 1976. Although the average age of SAC students has increased by only one year (from 26.9 to 27.8), the distribution of ages has radically changed, from modes of 18 and 22-25 to a single mode of 22-25. In 1976, 55% of SAC students were classified as "continuing," as compared with 29.8% in 1966. Growth has also been realized in the percentage of students returning to SAC without enrolling in classes elsewhere. In 1976, more students attended classes on a part-time basis and during both day and evening. The percentage of students enrolled full-time has decreased from 34.7% to 27.3%. Female enrollment has increased by 7%, while male enrollment has decreased by 6%. Average scores on the skills-oriented COOP-Expression test dropped 10% since 1966, while average COOP-Total scores declined 5% in the same period. However, average scores earned by students on aptitude tests have increased slightly. The overall GPA for SAC students has increased by 0.57 points, as a result of an increase in the number of "A's" and "W's" issued and a decrease in the number of other grades given. (DC)

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Yesterday and Today

**A Comparison of
Santa Ana College Students
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976**

Rancho Santiago Community College District

YESTERDAY AND TODAY
A Comparison of Santa Ana College Students -
Fall 1976 and Fall 1966

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February 1977

This report compares the characteristics of Santa Ana College students enrolled in the Fall 1966 semester with the characteristics of SAC students enrolled in the Fall 1976 semester. During the past ten years, many of the characteristics of SAC students have changed while some have not. A summary of the differences and similarities of students' characteristics is presented below.

AGE OF STUDENTS (Figure 1)

The average age of SAC students has increased only 1 year in the past ten years. The distribution of ages, although, has radically changed. Ten years ago, the modal age groups of students was 18 years and 22-25 years. Today, the modal age group is 22-25 years.

DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE (Figure 2)

Student's community college district of residence for Fall 1966 was adjusted to reflect the district alignment of the Fall 1976 semester. The data shows that the greatest growth has been in Rancho Santiago Community College District. Today, 79.9% of the students attending SAC live within RSCCD, compared to 67.3% in 1966. The increase is due mainly to the growth in the number of Orange Unified School District students attending SAC.

The largest decrease in students has been in the Saddleback Community College District. This of course is a result of the opening of Saddleback College and that district's enrollment restriction of their citizens in other community colleges.

TYPE OF ENROLLMENT (Figure 3)

The past ten years has shown rapid growth in the number of continuing students. Today, 55.5% of SAC students are classified as continuing compared to 29.8% in 1966.

Growth has also been realized in the percentage of students returning without enrolling in college classes elsewhere. This seems to be a result of a new breed of students, those who drop in and drop out of college. The data also shows a drop in the percentage of "First Enrollment At Any College" students, and a tremendous drop in "First Enrollment At SAC" students.

DAY/NIGHT STUDENTS (Figure 4)

The data in Figure 4 shows an increase in the percentage of students attending classes during both the day and night. This can be explained due to the changing age distribution of students. As the modal age of students increase, there seems to be a disappearance of the traditional 18-19 year old day time student.

NUMBER OF UNITS ENROLLED (Figure 5)

The percentage of students enrolled in the college full-time has decreased from 34.7% in 1966 to 27.3% in 1976. The change is a result of fewer students being enrolled in 12 to 15.9 units and more students enrolled in 8 to 11.9 units.

MALE/FEMALE STUDENTS (Figure 6)

As can be seen in Figure 6, female enrollment has increased seven percentage points over the past 10 years. Male enrollment, however, has decreased six percentage points over the same period of time.

PLACEMENT TEST SCORES (Figure 7)

Students' average score on the skills oriented COOP - Expression test has dropped 10 percentage points since 1966. The average COOP - Total score has declined 5 percentage points since Fall 1966.

While scores on the skills test have declined, average scores earned by students on aptitude tests have increased slightly. Students' average score on the SCAT - Verbal has increased one (1) percentage point from 46 to 47 percent, and student's average SCAT - Total score has increased from 44 to 46 percent.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND GRADE POINT AVERAGES (Figure 8)

The overall grade point average (G.P.A.) for SAC students has increased 0.57 points, or 14% since Fall 1966. The college G.P.A. for Fall 1966 was 2.25, and the G.P.A. for Fall 1976 was 2.82.

The higher G.P.A. is a result of an increase in the number of "A's" issued and a decrease in the number of "B's", "C's", "D's", and "F's". In the Fall 1966, "A's" accounted for 8 percent of grades. Today, "A's" account for 17 percent. During the past ten years, the grade "B" has decreased 2 percentage points, the percentage of "C's" has declined from 35 percent to 15 percent, "D's" decreased 4 percentage points, and "F's" have decreased three percentage points. Ten years ago a "C" was the predominant grade; today "A's" and "B's" are the predominant grades.

Although not used in the calculation of G.P.A., the grade "W" has been increasing. The percentage of "W" has increased from 19 percent (24 percent if WF and UF are added to "W") to 37 percent today. Apparently, today's students are unwilling to accept a low grade and have opted to accept a non-penalty "W".

FIGURE 1
Comparison of Student Age Groups
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

		Fall 1976	Fall 1966
AGE GROUP	17 & under	1.3%	7.1%
	18	9.4	15.5
	19	10.6	11.9
	20-21	14.5	10.3
	22-25	18.9	16.3
	26-30	17.8	12.7
	31-40	15.7	12.3
	41-50	8.1	9.9
	51-65	3.5	3.6
	Over 65	0.3	0.4
Average Age		27.8	26.9

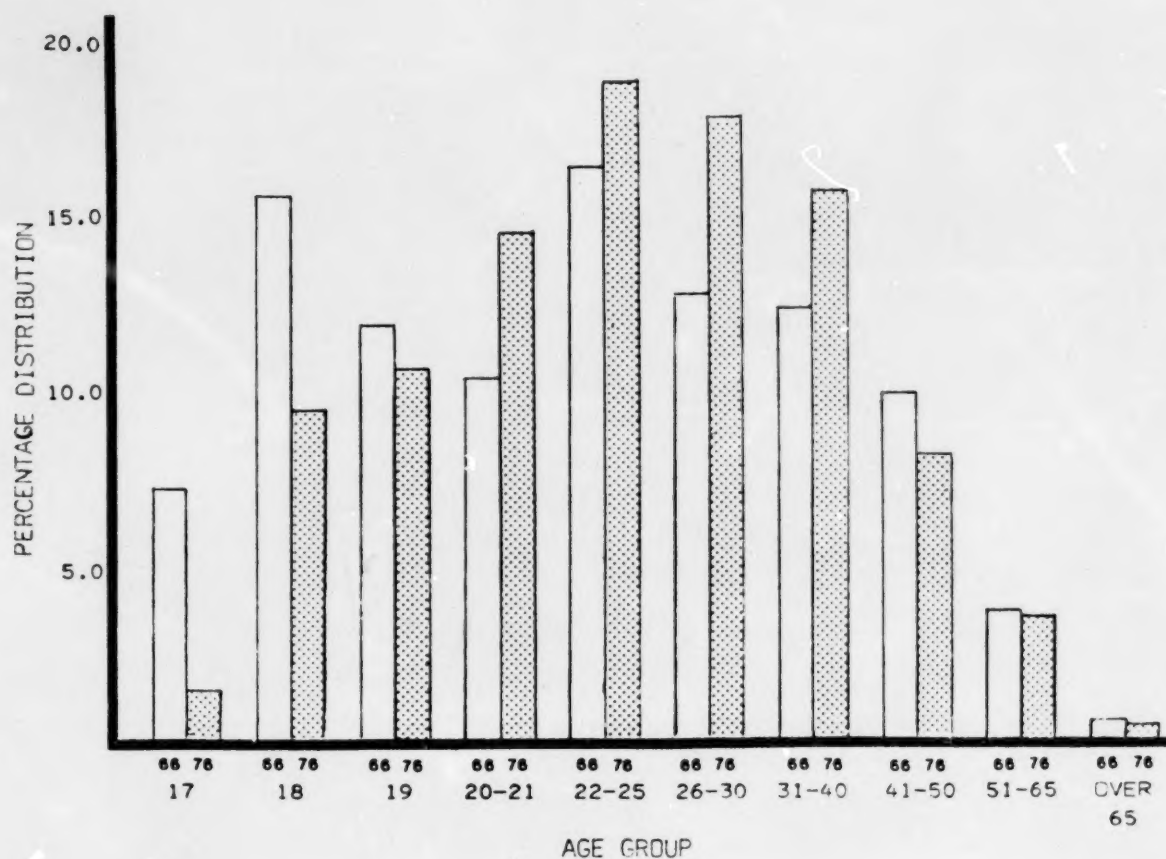


FIGURE 2

Comparison of Student Enrollment By District of Residence
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

		Fall 1976	Fall 1966
District of Residence	RSCCD	79.9%	67.3%
	a. Santa Ana	35.9	39.0
	b. Orange	33.4	14.2
	c. Garden Grove	10.5	14.1
	Saddleback	2.2	11.2
	North Orange	6.6	6.0
	Coast	7.2	4.3
	Non-District	0.1	0.1
	Other District	1.8	0.8
	Non-Resident	2.2	2.2
Garden Grove USD ¹		14.6	22.0

1. Old apportionment

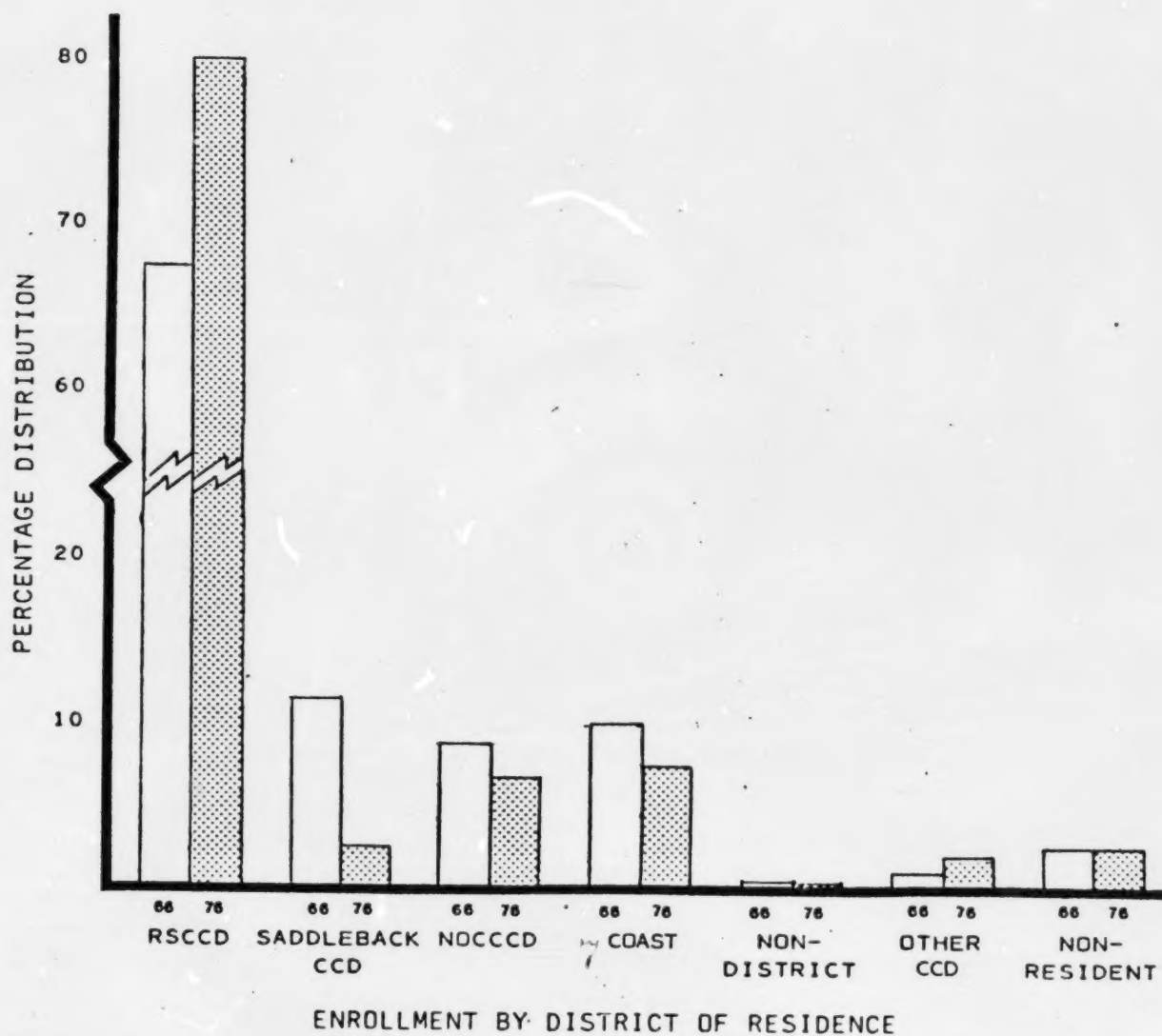


FIGURE 3

Comparison of Student Enrollment Classification
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

		Fall 1976	Fall 1966
Enrollment	Continuing	55.5%	29.8%
	1st At Any	18.2	25.5
	1st At SAC	15.1	40.0
	Rtn With Other	2.6	3.4
	Rtn, No Other	8.7	1.2

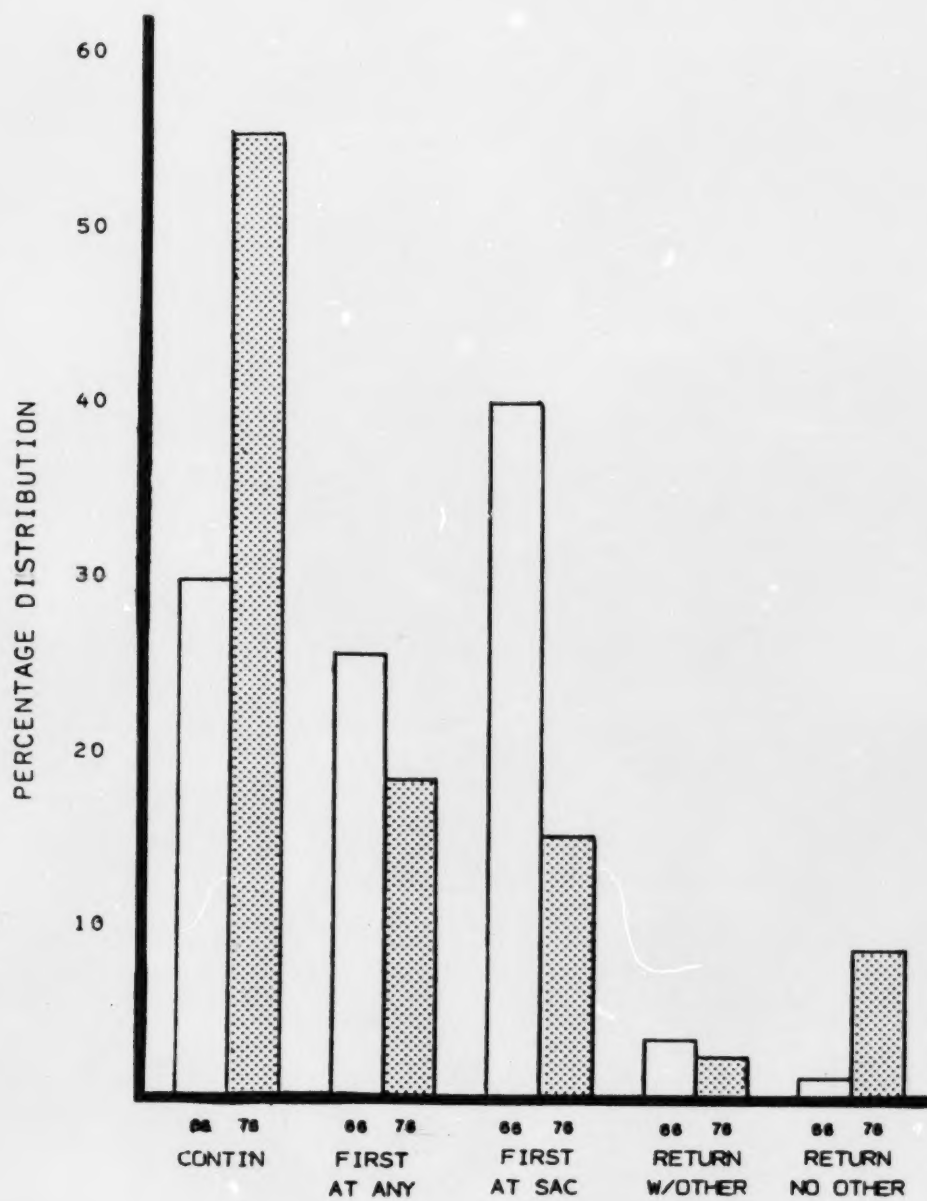


FIGURE 4

Comparison of Day and Night Students
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

		Fall 1976	Fall 1966
Day/Night	Day Students	36.7%	42.1%
	Night Students	42.7	47.2
	Both	20.6	10.7

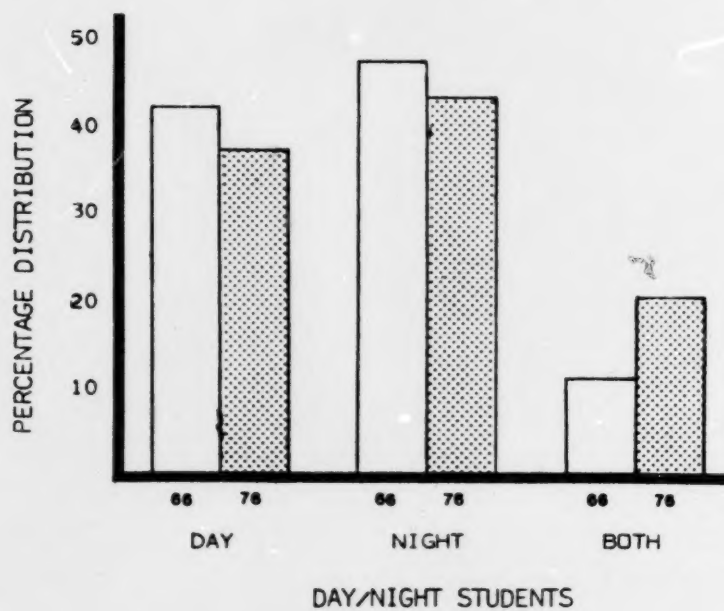


FIGURE 5

Comparison of the Number of Units Enrolled
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

		Fall 1976	Fall 1966
Full/Part Time	16+ units	6.3%	7.4%
	12 to 15.9	21.0	27.3
	8 to 11.9	17.8	10.2
	Under 8	54.9	55.1

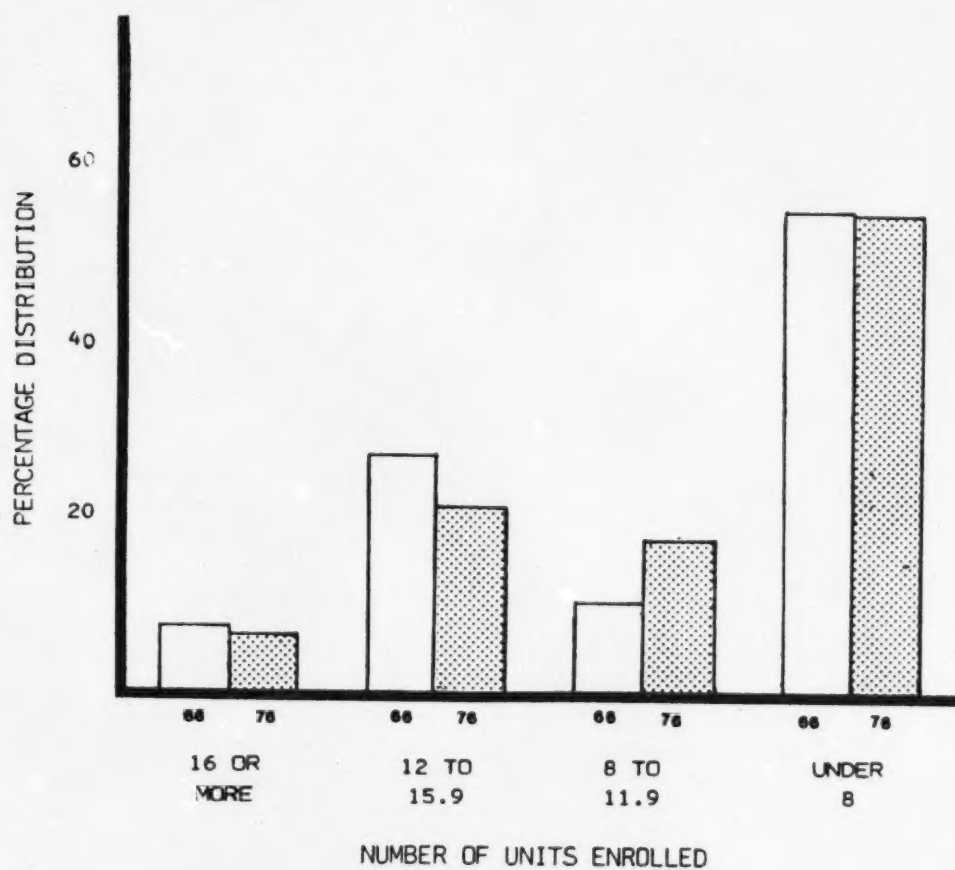


FIGURE 6
Comparison of Student Sex
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

		Fall 1976	Fall 1966
Sex	Male	54.0%	60.7%
	Female	46.0	39.3

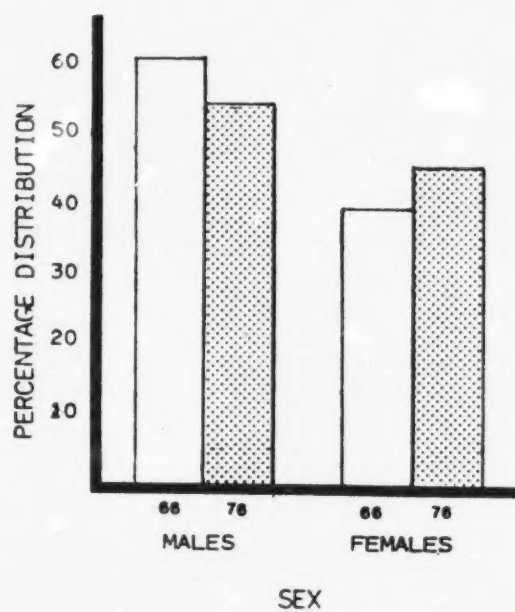


FIGURE 7

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Comparison of Student's Average Placement Test Scores
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

	SCAT-V	SCAT-T	COOP-E	COOP-T	Number of Testees
Fall 1966	46	44	35	43	751
Fall 1976	47	46	25	38	1775

FIGURE 8

Comparison of Grade Distributions and Grade Point Averages
Fall 1966 and Fall 1976

Percentage Distribution

	A	B	C	D	F	I	Sub- Total	W	WF	UF	NC	CR	G.P.A.
Fall 1966	8	20	35	7	5	1	76	19	1	4			2.25
Spring 1976	17	18	15	3	2	3	59	37			1	1	2.82

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